

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 6, 2004. Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 11, 13 to 19, 21 to 21 and 29 to 32 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

A new title has been selected.

An objection was lodged against the drawings for failure of the specification to include a description of reference numeral 116 from Figure 1. In response, page 13 of the specification has been amended to describe reference numeral 116 as an "engine interface". Withdrawal of the drawing objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 25 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In response, each of Claims 25 to 32 has been amended along the lines of the suggestions found at page 2 of the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 6, 9 to 14, 17 to 22 and 25 to 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,173,295 (Goertz) in view of U.S. Patent 5,953,007 (Center), and Claims 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, 24, 31 and 32 were rejected further in view of U.S. Patent 6,570,669 (Onuma). Reconsideration and Withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention concerns formation of print data to be transmitted to a printing apparatus, and involves an intermediate data converter which converts application-generated data into data in an intermediate code format. The intermediate data converter

temporarily preserves the intermediate code formatted data together with print setting information including layout information specified via a user interface of a printer driver. A plurality of temporarily-preserved print jobs are composed into one print job, and job output setting information is generated based on the print setting information of the plurality of print jobs. The job output setting information maintains page layout of the plurality of print jobs. Control is effected to display a preview of the composed jobs, and based on the generated job output setting information, a preview is displayed indicating that the page layout of the plurality of print jobs is maintained.

Goertz shows creation of a job ticket including print attributes of a print job through use of a user interface, and transmission of the job ticket to a printer. As correctly conceded in the Office Action, Goertz is silent concerning composition of a plurality of jobs into one composed job, and further is silent concerning generation of a print preview.

The Office Action took the position that Center provides the above features that are missing from Goertz, but Applicants respectfully disagree. As Applicants see it, Center shows a user interface for visually displaying print layout combinations and for allowing a user to specify one of the combinations. At column 3, Center gives an example in which the user interface shows the position of a specific page in sequential pages on a sheet, or a variety of output formats, such as "simplex", "printing", or "booklet", all for selection of a desired one of them or a desired combination of them.

Thus, Center is not seen to teach composition of a plurality of jobs into one composed job, and is further not seen to display a print preview of the combined job. Rather, Center merely teaches a graphical display for one print job. It is true that the print

job might contain plural pages, but there is absolutely no indication in Center that the plural pages are obtained by composing plural print jobs.

For example, as explained in the specification in terms of one representative embodiment of the invention, a document file might be generated with Microsoft Word® and preserved as one print job of intermediate code formatted data, and a table file might be generated with Microsoft Excel® and preserved as another print job of intermediate code formatted data. According to the invention, these two print jobs are composed into one composed job. Center, by contrast, is directed only to a plurality of pages of a single print job.

Moreover, according to a further feature of the invention described above, the present invention effects control of a preview display which indicates that the page layout of a plurality of print jobs included in one composed job is maintained. If the composed job comprises a first print job having one-page layout, and a second print job having two-page layout, then the preview of the composed job is displayed with an indication that the page layout of the first and second print jobs is maintained. No such feature is found in Goertz or Center, or in Onuma.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein define subject matter that would not have been obvious from any permissible combination of the applied art, and allowance of the claims herein is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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